

## FASHION'S GOLD YEAR

THE COLOR WILL FIGURE LARGE-  
LY IN ALL TRIMMINGS.

CANVAS AND GREEN SILK THE LATEST.

Turquoise to Be a Feature of Back-  
New Embroideries for Dress  
Fronts—Green Birds' Wings for the  
Hair.

(Correspondence of the Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, May 22.—This is going to be a gold year. I have no reference to politics whatever, for we that court Dame Fashion don't care a jot who is elected. What I mean is that gold is to figure largely in all trimmings of gowns this year. If you have a dress that you are going to have silver and gold braid put on, see to it that there is more gold than silver, or you will be unfashionable.

Woman has long been credited with an overweening fondness for a uniform, the result of the gold lace that makes it gorgeous. New season is to war that which she must admit, and she may expect to see semi-military and semi-nautical costumes on all sides. This will particularly be the case in the robes, which are bound to be very popular. For tailor-made dresses there are many patterns in black braided with gold cord. There are also of every shape, kind and design. Some of these are cut in a point in the center of the back with gold fringe upended, which reaches to the waist. These are gowns with gold cloth down the center, and head embroidery, gold on either side.

When gold is in favor steel is. It is not only adored as embroidery, but cut steel buckles and buttons and steel clasps and slides figure on everything—dresses, bodices, dress belts, hats and trappings of many of the new fashions. Hanging coronets, combs, are made of steel, while steel ornaments are sparkling diamonds. There is only one thing about this steel craze. It is absolutely necessary to preserve the ornaments that must be religiously protected.

The year's gown, the one which the truly fashionable have endorsed, is of strong canvas, made up over green silk, foundation and the skirt being quite distinct. This opens to show a new front formed of three flounces of canvas with a deep green ribbon head in, and the entire dress is closely knit in the depth. The skirt is a hemmed in with green, while the bodice is draped across and fastened on left side, two shades of canvas and green mingling with the color of the waistband.

Green silk is covered with black checked cloth, with a ribbon in the hem. This is combined by a cape of the same with an open square in front, together with two bias bands of black, a box pleat at the back, and the bodice cut in one with the cape. It is then almost every color appearing in the pattern. It is made up in a very thin, filmy fabric of enormous fullings to the bottom. Round the waist are three deep black velvet, held in by very capricious buttons, set in with pearls, but not costly ornaments—things that will take the blue of the muslin.

A simpler gown than the one described is of fawn canvas, made up on the foot, and bordered on the foot with a work of narrow white braid. The bodice is of black velvet, held in by very capricious buttons, set in with pearls, but not costly ornaments—things that will take the blue of the muslin.

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STRIKINGLY PRETTY COSTUMES OF RICHMOND GIRLS.

1. Dainty rose-colored tulle dress, embroidered and plain. The skirt of the embroidered material has three flounces of the plain, surmounted by two insertions or cream lace set on a sash. The bodice is of the same material, in a single piece, with its lower edge curved and trimmed with insertion and narrow ruffles. Two pleated flounces set into the arm eyes form a double bolero. The sash of white tulle is printed with green leaves. Green straw hat with pink roses.

2. Tulle of gray-green velvety with sun-pleated skirt. The double bolero is worn over a fitted corset of black tulle. Three large, handsome buttons close the corset at the waist. The sleeves have ensembles of lace tied in the center by green ribbon.

3. White linen lawn over rose-colored tulle, and trimmed with cream lace. Rose silk neckband and belt.

4. The skirt and trimming the sleeves. It is also to be seen in decorative combination with crepe de chine, and crepe de chine makes many of the prettiest fashions when it bears a knotted silk fringe at the ends.

The embroidery for the fronts of gowns this coming season are beautiful. Some on lace and not worked in the corners with light floral patterns, which are made right and left, so that one or two can be used. In these, green and pink tinsel and paillettes of faint tone mingle with gold, silver, and pearls, or something of that nature. The bodice trimmings for evening are nearly all of the stomacher shape, confined at the top as far as the shoulders. They are worked also in paillettes, jewels, and tinsel thread, so that the material of the dress shows in the interstices. The boleros frequently cover the back and are continued under the arms for high and low dresses.

As a matter of fact, the styles quoted are not ironed, and the would-be fashionable may vary from the idea in minor ways all she wishes to. The more we investigate the new styles, the more we find they fairly smother us with ideas. Again, it is made evident that we can be both economical and fashionable.

**True Astronomical Meridian.** Richmond, Va.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I would be glad if you will publish the enclosed article. You may possibly remember me in connection with the Oyster Survey of the State.

Yours, very truly, J. B. BAYLOR.

On account of the vast interest, both on sea and land, involved in a correct knowledge of the laws which govern the magnetic needle, Congress has authorized the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey to investigate the magnetism of the earth in every section of the North American Continent and to prepare magnetic charts for the whole region.

In connection with this work, the elements of the earth's magnetism have just been determined at Richmond, Va. It may be of interest to know that there has been established, and marked with substantial granite posts, at the New Reservoir Park, a true astronomical meridian, where engineers and surveyors can now determine the variation (declination) of the needle for themselves, as well as the index error of each individual instrument.

The City Engineer is familiar with the location of this meridional line. At the present time, at the New Reservoir Park, as determined with an improved

magnetometer and a collimator magnet, made of a hardened steel cylinder and suspended by a delicate silk fibre, immersed in glycerine, the magnetic needle pointed 3 degrees 57-59 minutes west of the true north (the direction of the pole of the earth). This is the average variation for the twenty-four hours.

At this season of the year the daily variation amounts to about 8 minutes of arc. The north end of the needle points about 8 minutes nearer the true meridian at 7 A. M. than at 1 P. M.

The annual variation seems to be increasing at Richmond at the rate of about 2 minutes of arc each year.

The line of no variation, or the line along which the needle points true north, passed through Richmond about 1825. It has been moving westward ever since.

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